

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. During World War II the USSR was very weak in the Far East and did everything possible to avoid a war with the Japanese. With the entry of the United States into the war, the Soviets were able to relax somewhat since they could depend on the US to keep the Japanese too occupied to risk attacking the Soviet Union, thereby releasing most of the Soviet Far East armed forces for use in Europe. With the conclusion of the war, however, the complete extinction of Japan as a military threat to the Soviet Union was more than compensated for by the emergence of the US as the primary threat to the Soviet Far East. This threat was judged far greater in scope and destructive capability than the Japanese had been at any time. This has resulted in major changes in strategic planning by the USSR.
2. The following three important occurrences alter the strategic picture in the Far East for the Soviets: (a) the defeat of Japan; (b) the assumption of control over China by the Communists, which protects the Soviet rear; and (c) the establishment of USAF bases in Japan and the Pacific. There are points of friction between the Soviets and the Chinese Communist regime, but the Soviet Union assumes it can depend on the Chinese to cooperate in the event of a war with the US.
3. The Soviets must now devote increasing attention to protecting the Kolyma, Chukotsk, Kamchatka, and Sakhalin areas, and the Primorskiy Kray and southern Khabarovskiy Kray areas. There is a great deal of construction activity taking place in the Kolyma and Chukotsk areas in particular, since these areas are now considered more important than before. Increased attention has been given, since the end of World War II, to the Vladivostok area, Port Arthur, and Dairen, where large numbers of Soviet troops are stationed. The Soviet Air Force is particularly strong in the above-mentioned areas, including the far north.

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4. Khabarovsk (N 48-30, E 135-06) is the General Headquarters for all military activities in the Soviet Far East. Both Soviet Army and Air Force headquarters are located there. Headquarters of the Chita Military District has direct access to Moscow, but is subordinate to the Khabarovsk headquarters (this was true as of 1948). The vulnerability of the Soviet Far East, in case of war, has caused the USSR to pay increasing attention to airfields and aircraft in the Soviet Far East.

5. Colonel General (now Marshal) Pavel Fedorovich Zhigarev was Chief of the Soviet Air Force headquarters at Khabarovsk in 1948. The designation of this headquarters is unknown [redacted]

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6. Headquarters for the Soviet Navy in the Far East is at Vladivostok (N 43-08, E 131-54).

7. Soviet workers were given extra pay as an incentive to move to Sakhalin to work. Those who go to the Kolyma and other northern areas in the Far East are given double-pay. Soviet armed forces also receive special consideration: double pay on Kamchatka, $1\frac{1}{2}$ times pay on Sakhalin, and hardship rations at both places. Tours of duty are two to three years, but often people remain longer because of the shortage of replacements.

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